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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.: 09/912,049

Examiner: Irene Marx

Filing Date: July 24, 2001

Group Art Unit: 1615

Inventors: Rehberger et al.

Title: *Direct-Fed Microbial*

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
FOR PATENTS
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Sir:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 4 and 7 with replacement claims 4 and 7 as follows:

A1 4. (Amended) A method of claim 3, wherein the strain comprises strain P169.

A2 7. (Amended) A method of claim 6, wherein the ruminant is fed the microorganisms such that the amount of microorganism delivered to the ruminant is about 6×10^{11} CFU/animal/day.